MR. K. K. THOMAS (*Kottayam*): As it is stated that the matter requires careful consideration, I ask again whether the Government *will* be pleased to consider it carefully?

MR. T. P. RAMASUBBA AIYAR (*Secretary to Government*): It is not possible to give an assurance immediately. I can say that the Government will consider it.

Forest Utilisation Officer.

89. **MR. K. K. THOMAS** (*Kottayam*): Will the Government be pleased to state:

(1) whether they have appointed a Forest Utilisation Officer for reporting on the Travancore forest produce;

(2) whether reports have been submitted by that officer, and if so, on what articles of forest produce;

(3) on what articles reports are still due from the officer; and

(4) whether they will expedite the completion of the reports?

MR. T. P. RAMASUBBA AIYAR (*Secretary to Government*): (1) In 1096, the Government deputed Mr. R. Dhanukoti Pillai, then Deputy Conservator of Forests, and in 1099, Mr. K. S. Narayana Aiyangar, Assistant Conservator of Forests, for forest 'utilisation' work. There is no Utilisation Officer now.

(2) Progress reports of the work done were submitted to the Government.

Mr. Dhanukoti Pillai conducted an economic survey of the forests in the Northern Forest Division and investigated the possibility of utilising reeds and soft woods for pulp manufacture. As a result of this, a match factory has been established in North Travancore which is utilising *eeta* for the manufacture of matches, etc.

Mr. K. S. Narayana Aiyangar, Assistant Conservator, was, during the period of his deputation, engaged in—

(*a*) finding out the conditions of the timber market and facilities for timber trade;

(*b*) enumeration and valuation survey of the reed areas in the Yerur and Pattanapuram Ranges for supply of raw materials to the Punalur Paper Mills;

(*c*) investigating the possibility of a ropeway at Ramakkalmettu; and

(*d*) experimenting with varieties of minor forest produce. Several specimens of known timbers were also got tested by him regarding their suitability for pencil making, billiard cues, etc.

(3) and (4) In 1099, the Government ordered that the work of investigation of the minor forest produce should be carried on by each of the Divisional Forest Officers in their respective divisions.

Timber Depots in the Kottayam Division.

90. **MR. K. K. THOMAS** (*Kottayam*): Will the Government be pleased to state:

(1) the number of timber depots in the Kottayam Forest Division;

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[Mr. K. K. Thomas.]

(2) whether there are any minor depots in the Division; and if so, where they are; and

(3) whether they will be pleased to open minor depots in such places as Kanjirapalli, Arattunada, Minachil, Kottayam town, etc., and thus reduce the working charges on logs of timber?

MR. T. P. RAMASUBBA AIYAR (*Secretary to Government*): (1) There are three timber depots in the Kottayam Forest Division, *viz.*, (*a*) Vettikad, (*b*) Parampuzha and (*c*) Alleppey.

(2) A minor depot has recently been opened at Mallapalli Forest Watch Station.

(3) The question of opening minor depots depends upon the demand existing at various places for timber by the local public. Without any data as to what the requirements of the people in the localities are in timber, it is not considered advisable to open minor depots indiscriminately, as almost all such depots opened in the past proved failures, there being no one to buy any timber from them.

Communal Representation in Public Service.

91. **MR. K. K. THOMAS** (*Kottayam*): Will the Government be pleased to state:

(*a*) whether they have issued orders to the heads of departments to the effect that members of the unrepresented and meagrely represented communities should be given preference in the matter of appointments, especially in the non-gazetted, executive and ministerial establishments;

(*b*) if so, whether the order has been consistently adhered to by the heads of departments; and

(*c*) whether they will direct that annual statements, by castes, of all the fresh appointments, acting and permanent, in the Land Revenue, Excise and other departments be prepared and submitted to the Government for their scrutiny and examination?

MR. K. GEORGE (*Chief Secretary to Government*): (*a*) Yes. A copy* of Government Circular No. J. 5651, dated the 22nd July 1915, which has been repeated as occasion required, is laid on the table.

(*b*) Most of the heads of departments have adhered to the instructions of the Government. Those who have not are being asked to adhere to the Government instructions.

(*c*) Quarterly statements, by castes, of appointments are being received from heads of departments and scrutinized by the Government.

MR. K. K. THOMAS (*Kottayam*): With regard to part (*b*) to the answer, may I ask whether the Government are in the habit of taking action against those subordinates who do not conform to these instructions?

MR. K. GEORGE (*Chief Secretary to Government*): Yes.

**Vide* Appendix IV--page 241.

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